

their professional and timely responses to the many requests for information they receive from Senators and their staffs.

It is difficult for me to imagine this institution's functioning without access to reliable information, and it is with deep appreciation that I commend researchers of the Congressional Research Service for responding quickly, pleasantly, professionally and with attention to detail to the many requests received from my office. It is this type of dedicated service that government employees all too often perform, and no one hears anything about it. This is a group of people who take their commitment to the Congress and the American people very seriously. And they deliver.

Mr. President, the Congressional Research Service provides a truly unique and indispensable service to the Congress. It has certainly made my first term as a U.S. Senator easier and more productive. I congratulate all of the workers there on their fine work and extend to them my heartfelt thanks.●

#### BIRMINGHAM ROTARY CLUB 75TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Birmingham Rotary Club on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary of service to the community.

The Birmingham Rotary Club was organized on March 19, 1924, by fifteen of the community, business and professional leaders. The club has an illustrious past with many local activities attributed to or begun by the Rotary Club including The Halloween Parade. At Seaholm High School, they dedicated the Rotary Memorial in 1950 to those who have died in service to our country, sculpted by Marshall Fredericks, also a Birmingham Rotarian and in 1992, a baseball scoreboard. The J.B. Howarth City Park was dedicated and named for a Birmingham Rotarian. Kenning Park is named for Bob Kenning (Retired City Manager of Birmingham), also a Birmingham Rotarian and past club president.

The Club has made numerous contributions to the community from furnishing the Rotary Room at the Baldwin Library and computer system at the Community House to the elevator and picnic shelter at Springdale Park. In addition, they support numerous schools, community groups and those who are less fortunate during Thanksgiving and the holiday season. Rotary has hosted international exchange students and has sponsored local students to go abroad through the International Rotary Scholarship Foundation.

Currently, the Birmingham Rotary Club is helping establish an Interact Club at Seaholm High School to involve high school age students in "Service Above Self". They are also supporting Polio Plus, to eradicate Polio worldwide by the year 2000, with a sizeable donation from all of the membership.

Over the past 75 years, the Birmingham Rotary Club has had a positive influence in the community and around the world. Through the tireless dedication and leadership of their 140 person membership, the Club's influence will only continue to grow and benefit those in the community and those who are less fortunate.

As one of Michigan's finest examples of volunteerism, I want to express my congratulations to all members of the Birmingham Rotary Club in recognition of their 75th Anniversary.●

#### RETIREMENT OF ROBERT MARTIN

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take the opportunity today to honor Robert (Bob) Martin for his years of hard work and commitment to the people of South Dakota. I would also like to extend my warmest wishes and congratulate Bob on his upcoming retirement.

Bob, a native of Estelline, South Dakota, graduated from high school in 1952. After his graduation Bob joined the United States Navy and proudly served from 1952-1956. Following his military service, he attended Dakota State University in Madison, South Dakota receiving a bachelors degree in 1960. With a degree in hand, Bob became a welcomed addition to the faculty in the Madison School System where I am certain he inspired many students to pursue their dreams.

In 1965, Bob joined KEM Electric Cooperative, in Linton, North Dakota, serving as Public and Member Relations and Power Use Director. Coming back to his South Dakota roots, Bob returned to Madison in 1970 to become Member Service Director for East River Electric Power Cooperative and eventually Assistant to the General Manager at East River, a position he held until 1983. Ultimately, Bob became Manager of the Member Services and Public Affairs Division and remained in this position until 1990. In 1990, Bob left East River Electric to become General Manager of Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative located in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Bob's lifetime of service to rural electric cooperatives is impressive and reflects his commitment to public power and the critically important role rural electric cooperatives play in rural America. Bob has been a leader on many different issues important to public power and rural electrics, from preventing the privatization of the Power Marketing Administrations to helping further rural water efforts in South Dakota. Rural electric cooperatives are an important factor in the economic development of their communities and in many cases, they are the best equipped to work to ensure small communities remain viable and continue to keep medical facilities, schools and other services available. I am convinced the importance of rural cooperatives will continue to grow, but it will require the dedication of more

individuals like Bob Martin to ensure the future of public power.

Today, Bob is a member of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Citizens Advisory Committee; a Director on the Board of the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association; chairs the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee; and is Chairman of the Pennington County Extension Board.

In addition to his military, scholastic, and professional achievements Bob and his wife, Kay have four grown children and five grandchildren. Again, I would like to thank Bob for all he has done to better South Dakota and I would like to wish him best of luck in his retirement. Although I imagine that keeping up with five grandchildren is not exactly retirement.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MICELL TECHNOLOGIES

● Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I would like to commend a rising company in the Tarheel State and use its positive example to encourage my colleagues to recognize and support the role environmental technologies are playing in our economy.

Micell Technologies of Raleigh has made great strides in improving carbon dioxide cleaning methods which may soon revolutionize the dry cleaning, metal finishing and textile industries. This company's environmentally friendly and energy efficient innovation, which is the result of research by a prominent professor and students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has recently earned recognition by R&D magazine as one of the top 100 innovations of 1998.

I would also like to share a column authored by Anna Vondrak that appeared recently in the Greensboro News & Record calling for the federal government to provide more research and development funding to stimulate environmental discoveries as well as tax and other incentives for polluting, less energy efficient companies to seek alternative manufacturing processes.

I respectfully request that this statement and accompanying article by Ms. Vondrak be printed in the Record.

[From the Greensboro News & Record, Sept. 27, 1998]

N.C. FIRM SHOWS THE POWER OF "GREEN" RESEARCH; GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE MORE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(By Anna Vondrak)

Congress is notorious for its tendency to divert money for research and development to well-larded pork projects.

The federal government is spending \$74 billion on R&D this year. But more than half of that goes to defense. A third of the rest goes to medical research, which consumes a rising share of federal research dollars.

In today's rapidly changing world, however, technological innovation by small firms will become increasingly important in ensuring economic success and environmental protection. Improved technologies can help industries move from dirty, energy-

guzzling manufacturing processes to clean, energy-efficient ones.

An example of seemingly mundane but significant environmental innovation comes from Micell Technologies, a start-up firm based in North Carolina, in the heart of the famed Research Triangle.

Formed in 1995 by three scientists—Joseph DeSimone, Timothy Romack and James McClain—Micell employs just 26 people. This small team is on the verge of solving one of this nation's most pervasive environmental problems.

Today, most dry cleaners rely on toxic solvents, such as perchloroethylene, or PERC, which can contaminate ground water and may cause cancer in humans after long-term exposure. While liquid carbon dioxide has long been seen as an environmentally positive alternative, it has not fared well in the marketplace because it simply cannot clean garments to acceptable standards by itself.

Led by DeSimone, a soft-spoken chemistry professor who co-invented the process with his students, scientists at UNC-Chapel Hill, developed new detergents that dissolve in liquid CO<sub>2</sub>.

Not only is the toxic substance PERC removed from the dry cleaning equation, but Micell's two new cleaning systems, Micare and Miclean, separate and recover the CO<sub>2</sub> and detergents they use. Those waste products can then be recycled—an important factor in preventing run-off pollution from reaching sensitive waterways.

Just as important, Micell's innovation also will play a major role in protecting the health of tens of thousands of employees in America's dry cleaning industry—and quite likely millions of their customers as well.

The firm's accomplishment caught the eye of R&D Magazine, which named it a winner of its annual R&D 100 Awards, long regarded as the "Oscars of Invention."

Thus, a humble dry cleaner joins the fax machines, antilock brakes, and the ubiquitous ATM created by far larger corporations as a leader in cutting-edge technology.

Micell's experience shows that academic research and small company entrepreneurship may be the fastest—and greenest—path to the marketplace.

Congress should speed the discovery process by establishing new R&D tax credits and low-interest loans to encourage small businesses and universities to expand research activities.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees recently pledged to double funding for the National Institutes of Health over five years—for starters—increasing NIH funding by \$2 billion this year. Experts in the medical community believe the funding increase will pay huge public health dividends.

Similarly, significant increases in federal funding that supports research for new environmental technologies also will produce big benefits for Americans—less pollution-driven disease, a greener planet and new industries that create jobs and enhance prosperity.

Continuing technological innovation is the key to America's economic and environmental health as it enters the 21st century. Congress should move quickly to bolster R&D and tax incentives in this key area. The time to act is now, while the U.S. still enjoys global economic dominance.●

#### RECOGNITION FOR RID-REMOVE INTOXICATED DRIVERS

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, 1998 marks the 20th anniversary of RID-Remove Intoxicated Drivers. Formed in 1978 by Doris Aiken in New York, the

organization has focused its efforts on educating the public on the impact of abusive alcohol use, offering support for the victims of drunk drivers and advocating for stricter laws on DWI.

RID has lobbied for the enactment of laws that will eliminate plea bargains for repeat offenders and funds for anti-DWI enforcement. With all their hard work, RID is able to claim credit for high safety ratings experienced in New York State. RID has also advocated for the lowering of the blood alcohol content from .1% to .08% as well as enhanced penalties for drunk drivers whose passengers are minors.

The National Highway Traffic Safety recognized the accomplishments of RID and awarded them the 1998 Public Service Award for their effective campaign to deter drunk driving. Their efforts contributed to New York being selected as having one of the safest records against drunk driving in the Nation for the fifth year.

In 1996, over 17,000 people died in drunk driving accidents, accounting for 41% of the total traffic fatalities of that year. While there was a 29% reduction from the alcohol related fatalities in 1986, it is still high—17,126 people too high. The senseless death of these individuals, the pain and anguish experienced by the family and friends and the hundreds of thousands who were injured can never truly be expressed through statistics. RID's accomplishments are for these victims and for potential victims of alcohol-related accidents.

I would like to add my congratulations to the many that RID has already received—on being recognized for their achievements in curbing drunk driving and on their 20 years of public service.●

#### COMMENDING THE BAY COUNTY WOMEN'S CENTER

● Mr. ABRAHAM Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an important event in my home state of Michigan. In conjunction with National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Bay County Women's Center has planned a Candlelight Vigil and Speakout. The vigil recognizes survivors, family members, and those who have lost their lives to domestic violence, in addition to educating the community about the resources available to the victims of domestic violence.

The Bay County Women's Center reaches out to survivors of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. It provides a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment for survivors to make decisions about their lives and families. In addition to offering extensive counseling, the Center goes so far as to assist with job search skills, housing options, and child care services.

The Vigil and Speakout draw attention to a problem that is all too common in hopes that we can work together toward a solution. It will join citizens, groups of professionals, and

community leaders in an effort to stress to the Bay community that violence is inexcusable and will not be tolerated. Because the tragedy of domestic violence affects far too many American families, I commend the tireless work of the Bay County Women's Center in helping reverse domestic violence statistics and assist the victims of violence. The Center is truly an invaluable asset to Michigan's families.●

#### RECOGNITION OF PHILIP AND MARGE ODEEN

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to recognize Philip and Marge Odeen of Virginia. These two natives of Yankton, South Dakota have been selected by the Northern Virginia Community Foundation to receive the 1998 Northern Virginia Community Founder's Award. The Founder's Award is presented each year to those citizens who have consistently demonstrated a commitment to both civic and humanitarian concerns, while making a substantial contribution to improving the quality of life in Northern Virginia. The Founder's Award is a tribute to the Odeens' leadership in all of these areas.

From the time they moved east in 1960, the Odeens made an immediate impact in the areas of commerce, public affairs, the arts, and community improvement. Phil distinguished himself in the public sector at the National Security Council, later as a co-founder of the World Affairs Council, and most recently in his work with BDM International and TRW. Marge's endeavors on behalf of Northern Virginia Community College and the Women's Center have also been noted for their success.

Throughout their professional careers Phil and Marge have always found a way to donate time and effort to worthy causes such as the Salvation Army, Childhelp USA, the Heart Association, and the Wolf Trap Foundation. They have given freely to non-profit organizations in terms of time and money, have consistently taken the lead in getting others involved, and most importantly have positively affected the lives of numerous men, women, and children in the Washington area.

I would like to commend the Odeens for their numerous contributions to the Northern Virginia Community; their community leadership serves as a model for the citizens of both Virginia and South Dakota to emulate.●

#### THE CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION ACT OF 1998

● Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I am pleased with the passage by UC of the bipartisan substitute amendment to HR 2616, the Charter School Expansion Act. Senator LIEBERMAN and I introduced this bill last November to help further expand the charter school movement which is so successfully providing new educational opportunities